

MONTANA

Economy at a Glance

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY

Last month there could have been some confusion with the wording of the Current Population Survey (CPS) article. In 2002, there were more women (358,000) in the civilian, noninstitutional population in Montana than men (348,000), but there were more men in the civilian labor force (246,000) than women (217,000).

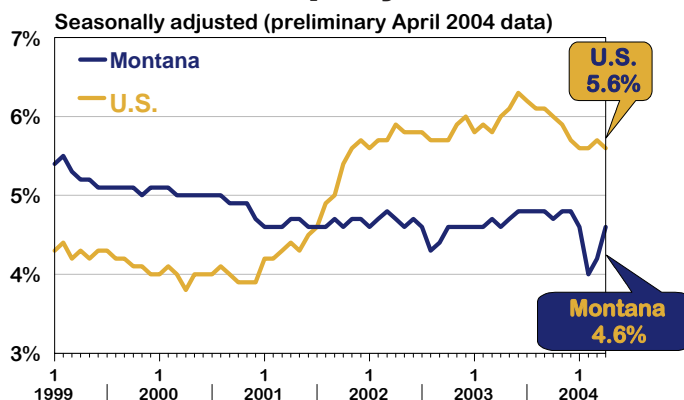
The charts below come from the CPS 2002 annual averages, "Employment status of the civilian, noninstitutional population" table for Montana. They compare the men's and women's civilian labor force by age group. The percentage of men in the labor force was higher than the percentage of women in all age groups, except the 16-19 years old range, in which 54% of women appeared in the civilian labor force as compared to 50% of men.

Find more CPS information at:
<http://stats.bls.gov/cps>

Age of Men	Total Pop.	Labor Force	% of Pop.
16-19 yrs	31,000	15,000	50.1
20-24 yrs	25,000	21,000	83.7
25-34 yrs	51,000	47,000	91.9
35-44 yrs	66,000	60,000	92
45-54 yrs	70,000	62,000	87.5
55-64 yrs	44,000	29,000	65.9
65+ yrs	61,000	12,000	20

Age of Women	Total Pop.	Labor Force	% of Pop.
16-19 yrs	23,000	12,000	54.4
20-24 yrs	28,000	21,000	76.4
25-34 yrs	50,000	38,000	77.1
35-44 yrs	68,000	56,000	81.6
45-54 yrs	70,000	54,000	77.5
55-64 yrs	48,000	29,000	60.7
65+ yrs	N/A	N/A	N/A

Unemployment

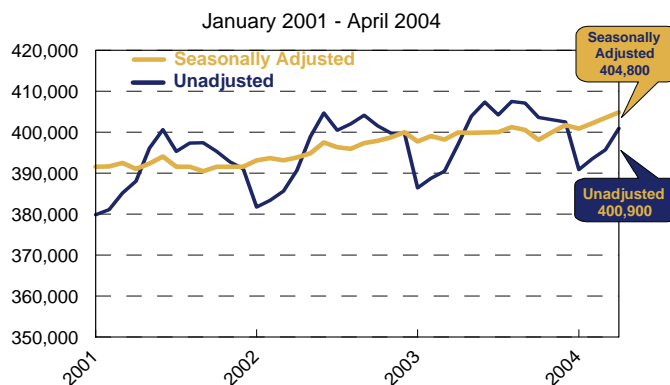


Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate. The state's April unemployment rate of 4.6 percent was 1 percentage point lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector production workers was \$413.85, up 2.4 percent over-the-year for April, and up one-tenth of a percentage point from the 2.3 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonfarm Employment Series



Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 4,900 jobs (1.2 percent) over the year for April. The largest over-the-year gains were in construction; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; private education and health services; and professional and business services.

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

	Apr. 2004*	Apr. 2003
UNITED STATES	5.4%	5.8%
MONTANA	4.6%	4.6%
Cascade **	4.1%	4.0%
Missoula **	3.7%	3.9%
Yellowstone **	3.1%	3.0%
Beaverhead	3.9%	4.0%
Big Horn	12.4%	15.7%
Blaine	4.6%	5.6%
Broadwater	3.5%	3.9%
Carbon	3.3%	3.6%
Carter	2.4%	3.2%
Chouteau	2.6%	1.9%
Custer	2.9%	3.2%
Daniels	2.7%	3.4%
Dawson	3.2%	2.3%
Deer Lodge	6.4%	5.9%
Fallon	3.0%	2.9%
Fergus	4.6%	4.6%
Flathead	7.0%	6.0%
Gallatin	3.4%	3.0%
Garfield	2.1%	2.5%
Glacier	12.0%	10.5%
Golden Valley	5.0%	7.7%
Granite	6.3%	9.4%
Hill	3.6%	3.7%
Jefferson	4.1%	3.7%
Judith Basin	4.4%	4.7%
Lake	6.6%	6.7%
Lewis & Clark	3.7%	3.7%
Liberty	2.8%	3.3%
Lincoln	16.4%	19.2%
McCone	2.0%	3.3%
Madison	4.4%	4.7%
Meagher	5.3%	5.4%
Mineral	8.3%	9.5%
Musselshell	6.7%	6.7%
Park	5.9%	5.8%
Petroleum	4.0%	2.4%
Phillips	4.5%	4.5%
Pondera	5.8%	4.2%
Powder River	3.6%	3.3%
Powell	6.4%	6.5%
Prairie	3.9%	3.1%
Ravalli	4.7%	5.0%
Richland	4.1%	5.6%
Roosevelt	7.3%	6.1%
Rosebud	5.0%	5.7%
Sanders	8.7%	9.5%
Sheridan	3.6%	4.1%
Silver Bow	4.7%	4.7%
Stillwater	2.8%	2.6%
Sweet Grass	2.3%	3.1%
Teton	3.0%	3.2%
Toole	2.4%	3.4%
Treasure	3.5%	3.5%
Valley	3.6%	3.2%
Wheatland	4.1%	3.9%
Wibaux	2.4%	4.7%

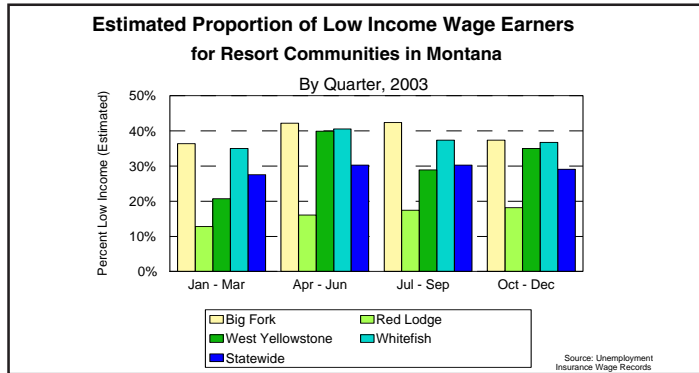
*April 2004 rate preliminary
** Cascade=Great Falls MSA
Missoula=Missoula MSA

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A Glance at Low-Income Workers in Resort Communities

The chart below compares the percentages of low-income workers in four Montana communities in 2003. Since these are considered resort communities, one might expect the proportion of low-income persons to be higher than that of the state as a whole. In two of the four cases (Bigfork and Whitefish), this is true. At certain periods this percentage approaches 45%. It is also true for the summer season (the second and third quarters) in West Yellowstone. Surprisingly, in Red Lodge this proportion is less than the state average in all four quarters. It appears that although Red Lodge is one of the entrances to Yellowstone Park and has a ski resort nearby, it may not fit the definition of a “resort” community.



For the purposes of this chart, “low income” is defined as those workers who have earned less than \$2,500 in a given quarter of 2003. Percentages were calculated using unemployment insurance wage records, which offer an imprecise way to estimate the proportion of low income workers. These estimates assume that the person works for a single employer throughout the time period of interest. People having a second, part-time job are double counted, and people having more than one employer during the quarter are more than likely to be classified as low-wage earners. Thus, the percentages should be considered upper-limits of the proportion of low income workers in a given community. The employers’ zip codes were used to define residence

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